



The Invitation by Orlah Mountain Dreamer

From the book *The Invitation* by HarperCollins

IT DOESN'T INTEREST ME WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING.
I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream
of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to
know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your
dream, for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your
moon. I want to know if you have touched the center of your
own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or have
become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain. I want
to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without
moving to hide it or fade it or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own,
if you can dance with the wildness and let the ecstasy
fill you to the fingers and toes without cautioning us
to be careful, be realistic, or to remember the limitations
of being human.

It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true.
I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to
yourself; if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and
not betray your own soul; if you can be faithless
and therefore trustworthy.

I want to know if you can see the beauty even when it
is not pretty, every day, and if you can source your life
from its presence.

I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine,
and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to
the silver of the full moon, "Yes!"

It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how
much money you have. I want to know if you can get up, after
the night of grief and despair, weary and bruised to the bone,
and do what needs to be done to feed the children.

It doesn't interest me who you know or how you came
to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the center of
the fire with me and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom
you have studied. I want to know what sustains you, from the
inside, when all else falls away.

I want to know if you can be alone with yourself and
if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.